



AFT Connecticut
AFT, AFL-CIO

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TESTIMONY
Sharon M. Palmer
Appropriations Committee
March 27, 2009

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Good Afternoon Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and members of the Committee. I am Sharon Palmer, President of AFT Connecticut, a diverse 28,000 member AFL-CIO Union.

We are here to oppose Governor's Bill 829. In the 1950's I followed my father around the Capitol as he lobbied for State employees. There was no collective bargaining. State employees were a political football between the two parties with each jockeying to gain the best political position for public consumption. I feel this bill moves us backward toward those days. The bill does not respect the collective bargaining process. It narrows and/or eliminates items in the scope of bargaining. It eliminates benefits without any appeal to a neutral process and makes non-binding, binding arbitration even more non-binding. It is a huge step backwards. We urge you to reject 829.

Thank you for your time and this hearing opportunity.

